Improvement in the management practices and of physical parameters of SEBs for making them more effective and viable. Financial assistance is available under different schemes for streamlining and modernisation of State Electricity Boards.

(b) and (c) The Ministry of Power and its agencies viz., Central Electricity Authority. Power Finance Corporation and Rural Electrification Corporation are involved in monitoring the physical progress of projects of SEBs. their financial performance and the progress in rural electrification respectively. The plan programmes of the SEBs are monitored by the Planning Commission and the Ministry of Power. Annual accounts are also being submitted to CEA under Section 69 of the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948.

[English]

Extension to Directors in CSIR

307. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Abid Hussain Committee Report on CSIR strictly says that no Director of CSIR Laboratory will be given extension beyond first term i.e. for six years; and

(b) the number of the Directors given extensions after first term along with the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The recommendations of the Abid Hussain Committee regarding extension of tenure of Directors of CSIR Laboratories/Institutes were reviewed at the CSIR Society meeting held in February, 1988 under the Chairmanship of the then Prime Minister of India in capacity as Ex-Officio President of CSIR and it was decided that the term of Directors may be extended in exceptional cases. Performance of Directors is accordingly reviewed; and extension has been granted to 15 (fifteen) Directors on the basis of their performance with approval of the president, CSIR.

Construction of Over-Bridge

308. SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH BADAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the enormous difficulties being faced by the local population due to the inordinate delay in the construction of Railway-over-bridge at Kot-Kapura in Punjab;

(b) if so, the reasons for delay in this regard;

(c) the present status of this project; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to complete this over-bridge expeditiously ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) A Road Over Bridge in lieu of existing level crossing at Kot-Kapura (Punjab) was approved during 1996-97. Tenders have been invited for Railway's portion of work which is likely to be taken up after Monsoons. The work on approaches is yet to be started by State Govt.

Royalty on Coal and Increasing Hydel Power Rate

309. SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR :
SHRI PRAKASH VISHWANATH PARANJPE :
SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the 'Empowered Committee/Group on Energy Policy' has made radical recommendations including the fixing of royalty on coal an advalorem basis and increasing hydel power rates;

(b) if so, the details of their recommendations;

(c) whether the Government propose to lay their report on the Table of the House for its consideration; and

(d) if so, the time by which it is likely to be laid ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Telephone Lok Adalats in Gujarat

310. SHRI GORDHANBHAI JAVIA :
DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any telephone Lok Adalat has been held in Gujarat Telecom circle during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; district-wise; and

(c) the number of cases settled during the above period ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Telephone Adalats are being held in Gujarat Telecom. Circle.

(b) and (c) Details of Telephone Adalats are given in the attached Statement.

Statement

Details on Telephone Adalats held in Gujarat Telecom Circle during 1994-95 to 1996-97.

Sl. No.	Name of District	Year 1994-95	Cases Settled	Year 1995-96	Cases Settled	Year 1996-97	Cases Settled
1.	Ahmedabad & Gandhinagar	3	283	2	120	4	172
2.	Vadodara	4	68	4	21	4	17
3.	Surat	1	70	1	86	2	141
4.	Rajkot	4	52	4	44	4	102
5.	Kheda	1	10	1	15	2	15
6.	Mehsana	4	6	2	2	2	52
7.	Bhavnagar	–	–	1	44	1	–
8.	Junagarh & UT of Diu	1	4	1	2	–	–
9.	Jamnagar	1	4	2	27	2	25
10.	Kutch-Bhuj	1	10	–	–	–	–
11.	Valsad, Dang-Ahwa & UT of Daman, Dadra Nagar Haveli	–	–	–	–	–	–
12.	Surendra Nagar	–	–	–	–	1	21
13.	Panch Mahal	–	–	–	–	–	–
14.	Sabarkantha	–	–	–	–	1	33
15.	Banaskantha	–	–	1	7	1	7
16.	Baruch	–	–	–	–	1	1
17.	Amreli	–	–	1	18	–	–
		20	507	20	386	25	586

Telephone Facility in Post Offices in Gujarat

311. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA :
DR. A.K. PATEL :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a number of post offices in Gujarat have not been provided with telephone facility;

(b) if so, the details of such post offices;

(c) the steps taken/to be taken to provide the basic telephone facility there; and

(d) the number of panchayats where no telephone with STD facility has been provided so far and the steps